

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03506 201803Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-07 OES-06 /095 W

----- 067726

R 201546Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8129

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3506

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PA, BL

SUBJ: RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA WORSEN OVER PILCOMAYO

REF: ASUNCION 1760

1. PARAGUAY'S RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA, NEVER PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY, HAVE GROWN NOTICEABLY COOLER OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, LARGELY BECAUSE OF GOP'S DISPLEASURE OVER LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE JOINT EXPLOITATION OF THE PILCOMAYO RIVER. SEPARATE EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS RECENTLY WITH THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO PARAGUAY, GENERAL ALBERTO LIBERA CORTEZ, AND THE AMERICAN CITIZEN DIRECTOR OF THE OAS PILCOMAYO PROJECT CONFIRM THIS CONCLUSION.

2. THE FURTHER COOLING OF RELATIONS SEEMS TO STEM FROM THE SUDDEN, UNANNOUNCED VISIT OF PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES TO BOLIVIA LAST APRIL (REPORTED IN REFTEL). THE BOLIVIANS REPORTEDLY WERE ANGRY OVER THIS MOVE, AND REACTED BY GIVING FURTHER PUBLICITY TO THEIR PLANS TO DIVERT THE PILCOMAYO'S WATER FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES. THIS ENRAGED THE GOP WHO RETALIATED BY WITHDRAWING THE POLICE GUARDS FROM THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN ASUNCION AND IN GENERALLY SNUBBING HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 03506 201803Z

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE DECISION OF LLOYD AEREO

BOLIVIANO TO CANCEL FLIGHTS FROM SANTA CRUZ TO ASUNCION BEGINNING AUGUST 1, AND THE TERMINATION BY GOB OF SIMILAR LAP FLIGHTS ON AUGUST 19.

3. WHILE THERE ARE OTHER REASONS AS WELL BEHIND THE AIRLINE DISPUTE, THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR BELIEVED THAT PARAGUAYAN UNHAPPINESS OVER LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE PILCOMAYO WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THE DIFFICULTIES. HE TOLD US QUITE FRANKLY THAT BOLIVIA SAW NO REASON TO SHARE THE BENEFITS OF THE PILCOMAYO WITH PARAGUAY. AS FAR AS THE AMBASSADOR WAS CONCERNED, THIS RIVER BELONGED TO BOLIVIA, TO MAKE WHATEVER USE OF IT IT WANTED.

4. THE PILCOMAYO ISSUE WILL PROBABLY COME TO A HEAD AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TRINATIONAL PILCOMAYO COMMISSION OPENING SEPTEMBER 13 WE UNDERSTAND PARAGUAY FOR THE FIRST TIME WILL PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE RIVER, WHICH ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN EXPERT IS TOTALLY IMPRACTICAL AND WILL PROBABLY BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY BOLIVIA. IN VIEW OF THEIR PRESENT ATTITUDE, IT WOULD SEEM UNLIKELY THAT BOLIVIA WOULD ADVANCE ANY PROPOSAL, SO THE CHANCES ARE THAT PARAGUAY WILL COME AWAY FROM THE MEETING EVEN MORE ILL-DISPOSED TOWARDS BOLIVIA THEN THEY ARE AT PRESENT.

5. INASMUCH AS THE GOP IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE USG STANDS FOURSQUARE BEHIND BOLIVIA, THE FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS NOT HELPFUL TO OUR OWN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PARAGUAY. THE DEPTH OF THE ILL-FEELING AGAINST BOLIVIA WAS SHOWN AGAIN RECENTLY WHEN PRESIDENT STROESSNER RATHER EMOTIONALLY TOLD THE MILGP CHIEF THAT "THE BOLIVIANS HATE US." THE REASON FOR HIS OUTBURST WAS THE NOTIFICATION THAT MILGPS IN PARAGUAY, URUGUAY AND COSTA RICA WOULD BE DISESTABLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1976.

LANDAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, RIVERS, WATER DIVERSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ASUNCI03506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760320-0943
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760836/aaaabeon.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ASUNCION 1760
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA WORSEN OVER PILCOMAYO
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PA, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006